

**EASTPORT SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021
6:00 P.M.
SHEAD HIGH SCHOOL**

Members Present: Walter Cummings, Melissa Lawrence, Jessica Andrews, and Cynthia Morse

Members Absent: Meg McGarvey

Staff Present: Superintendent Kenneth Johnson, Principal Paul Theriault, Catherine Lee, and Erin Mahar

Others Present: Edward French, *Quoddy Tides*, Sonya Sullivan, Colleen Dana-Cummings, Stephen Cannon, Jeanne Pegrum, Jeanne Peacock, and Ross Lawrence

A. Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Adjustments to the Agenda:

Agenda item number 1 will be deleted and to consider establishing adult breakfast and lunch prices will replace it.

C. To Approve the Minutes of the Following School Committee Meeting, as Written or with Corrections, as Recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

1. June 16, 2021

It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Jessica Andrews, and voted unanimously to approve the June 16, 2021 school committee meeting minutes as written.

2. June 30, 2021 Emergency School Committee Minutes

It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted 3 – 0 – 1 (Jessica Andrews) to correct the minutes by adding “and voted unanimously”.

D. Administrative Reports:

1. Principal – Eastport Elementary School and Shead High School – Principal Paul Theriault reviewed his report.

2. School Committee – Walter Cummings noted he saw good participation for some girls' summer basketball games. He also noted the fine promotional efforts, but expressed concern about keeping new students long term. A discussion continued noting the fine quality of the school newspaper and how to distribute more widely. Walter Cummings asked if it is possible to use students to help with working around school. Mr. Johnson clarified not as an employee for compensation, but possibly as a community service oriented project with supervision. Jeanne Pegrum further commented on the idea of service learning project possibly for credit. Mr. Johnson noted the difficulty in retaining support staff and stated he must follow salary scales in the support staff contract. Walter Cummings asked about the possible contracts with third party cleaning service. Mr. Johnson stated he needs to research relationships between union and possible competing services. Jeanne Pegrum asked if the Delta variant is affecting kids to a greater extent. Mr. Johnson confirmed and Walter Cummings noted his belief that Washington County has different characteristics than the more populous parts of the State.

3. Superintendent – Superintendent Johnson provided an update from MDOE; appointed Danielle Wheeler as Ed Tech III; appointed the following coaches: Robert Sanchez, Jr. High Soccer; Ronald Sullivan, Boys Soccer and Golf; Dana Bowen, Girls Soccer; Connie Knight, Cross Country; and reported on the resignation of Amanda Cox, Custodian, and Clayton Green, Custodian.

E. Old Business

There was no old business.

F. New Business

1. To Consider Establishing Adult Breakfast and Lunch Prices

It was moved by Melissa Lawrence, seconded by Jessica Andrews, and voted unanimously to establish adult breakfast at \$2.00 and adult lunch at \$5.00.

2. To Consider Opening of Bids for the SHS Generator

No bids were received on the generator. Questions over why no bids on the generator were received. Mr. Johnson will check the lingo and noted contractors are very busy and the supply chain may also be an issue. Melissa Lawrence asked if we can solicit bids; Mr. Johnson responded “yes”.

3. To Consider Awarding of the Heating Fuel Bid

It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted unanimously to award the heating fuel bid to Eastern Plumbing and Heating at a cost of \$2.699.

4. To Consider a Discussion on Opening Day

Many questions on pool testing including: what is minimum size of pool (30%); how often are students tested (weekly); are other high schools doing this (Calais and Washington Academy); would students swab themselves (yes); and can we poll community (yes and under no pressure to start on September 1 – can start anytime). Mr. Johnson can provide additional specifics if we choose to continue and noted there is no cost for the service. Walter Cummings asked what other schools are doing; Mr. Johnson responded that Washington Academy and Calais are pool testing. Machias High School and Calais schools have optional masks. AOS 77 elementary schools have optional masks, no distance learning, continued emphasis on hygiene and distancing. Jeanne Pegrum read guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics recommending masks. Ross Lawrence stated his objection of require masks. Sonya Sullivan noted Edmunds and Beatrice Rafferty Schools are requiring masks. Cynthia Morse stated her preference for requiring masks. Melissa Lawrence felt masks are restrictive. Paul Theriault stated he will choose to wear a mask. Stephen Cannon noted with temp checks, a sick child can be intercepted. Mr. Johnson stated to the board that they can revisit their decision if conditions change. The discussion continued about special accommodations that might allow for remote learning. Sonya Sullivan, Catherine Lee, and Cynthia Morse all expressed support for the remote option. Paul Theriault expressed disappointment that remote options were not more fully discussed. Jessica Andrews stated she had been approached by parents and teachers indicating that remote learning was too much. Edward French stated he felt the board could alternate.

It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted unanimously to implement pool testing and send information to parents.

It was moved by Jessica Andrews, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted 3 – 1 (Cynthia Morse) to have masks optional, no remote option, regular school day, continued emphasis on distancing, hygiene and temperature checks.

Follow-up: It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted unanimously to allow the remote program at the high school only with guidelines as established by administration.

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Johnson, Superintendent
Secretary, ex-officio